

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the kind indication of allowability of Claim 20. Claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form so it is now allowable.

The remaining claims have been amended to conform them to the amendments made in the parent application. The specification has also been amended by way of the enclosed substitute specification to correct the typographical errors noted by the Examiner and those which were corrected in the parent application.

The Examiner objected to the specification, pointing out a number of typographical errors. The Examiner will note that these have been corrected.

The Examiner rejected Claims 17-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite in the use of the phrase "fluoride hydrogen" instead of "hydrogen fluoride". It is believed that this rejection is now moot.

The Examiner rejected Claims 17, 21, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Saito (US 6, 159, 298); rejected Claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Saito in view of Mori et al. (JP 05-214339 A); and rejected Claims 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Saito in view of Ishiko (JP 63-006922 A). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Saito teaches supplying HF gas to promote cleaning. This reference does not, however, teach or suggest supplying HF gas to at least one of the reaction

tube and the exhaust pipe via a plurality of inlets connected to parts of the reaction tube and exhaust pipe where conductance of a gas-flowing path is relatively lower. The description, "parts of the reaction tube and exhaust pipe where conductance of a gas-flowing path is relatively lower" is supported by the passage at page 6, lines 3-14, of the original specification. Thus, Claim 17 and the claims dependent therefrom all distinguish over the Saito reference.

The secondary references applied against Claims 18, 19, 22, and 23, do not cure the deficiencies in the primary reference.

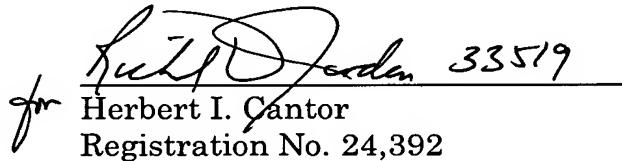
Since all the claims are clearly in condition for allowance and distinguish over the prior art of record, whether taken singly or in combination, an early Notice of Allowance is in order and the same is most earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Serial No. 10/080,964
Amendment Dated: June 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action: June 4, 2004

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #01098651301DV).

Respectfully submitted,


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